NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
September 26, 1997

ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED!

WHAT: A **Staff Preview** for **Archaeopteryx: The Bird That Rocked The World**

WHEN: Friday, October 3, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

WHERE: The South Gallery

Come get a sneak preview of the world's oldest known bird! The Exhibits Department will have an exhibit fact sheet available at the preview. Can't attend, but would still like one? Call Mia at extension 513. All are invited; please check with your supervisor.

SAFETY AND SECURITY FAIR

October 7, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Safety Committee and the Security Services Department will sponsor a Fair on Tuesday, October 7: booths with information on home and work safety, home security and office security will be in Lecture Hall 2. There will also be presentations in Montgomery Ward Hall, including one by Detective J.J. Bittenbinder on his "Street Smarts" program. He has been featured on Channel 11 and Channel 2, as well as on stations around the country, discussing personal security and safety information. In a blatant attempt to have as many attendees as possible, we will raffle off several prizes, including smoke detectors and home fire extinguishers. Watch for flyers next week with the entire program. Questions? Call **Ron Cundiff** (x856)

IS THIS WHY OUR VOICE MAIL IS ALWAYS FULL?

Have you ever accessed your voice mail and found to your horror that someone left you a five- or ten-minute message? However, the message itself was only a few seconds, but the caller did not hang up properly so you wound up with a recording of conversation in the caller's work area that -- hopefully -- had nothing to do with you. Such a situation has happened to several Museum staffers. Not only is voicemail capacity affected, but confidentiality is jeopardized. The moral of the story is, when completing a call to someone's voicemail, make sure to hang up.

Submitted by **Ron Cundiff**

LIVING TOGETHER MURAL

Those of you who frequent the North Door may have noticed some coloring action happening... Artist Lynn Takata, from Portland, Oregon, worked with Field Museum Teen Volunteers, UNO children, and University of Chicago Laboratory School children to create a beautiful mural on wooden construction panels. The mural features shoes from around the world and throughout time, and are painted from the shoes that will be introducing the **Living Together** exhibit. Next break, head out the North Door, and turn right at the bottom of the steps to view the collaborative work of several groups of creative children! Also a wonderful preview of various footwear from our new exhibit!

- Johanna Krynytzky, Education

P.S. Thank you to Exhibits' **Pamela Gaible** for being so helpful by lending us photos of shoes to work from, and answering questions on shoes and **Living Together.** Any questions, call me at x649!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MAMMALOGISTS RETURN FROM ITC-7 IN ACAPULCO, MEXICO

The 7th International Theriological Congress, held every four years, saw several presentations by Field Museum staff. On opening day, MacArthur Curator **Bruce Patterson** (Zoology/Mammals) was an invited speaker in the Geographical Ecology symposium, delivering a paper entitled "The role of history: contingency and determinism of species assemblages." Bruce and co-authors **Doug Stotz** (Environmental and Conservation Programs), Sergio Solari, **John Fitzpatrick,** and Victor Pacheco also presented a poster that afternoon entitled "Contrasting patterns of elevational zonation for birds and mammals in the Andes of SE Peru." Bruce co-authored with Research Associate **Peter Meserve** (Zoology, Mammals) and Brian Lang on former student Doug Kelt's presentation "Habitat associations of terrestrial mammals in southern temperate rainforest: the influence of spatiotemporal scale and data resolution on biological understanding." Associate Curator **Larry Heaney** (Zoology, Mammals) was co-organizer and moderator of Wednesday's Island Biogeography symposium, presenting a paper entitled "Island biogeography of mammals: what are the questions?" As part of the associated poster session, Collection Manager **Bill Stanley** (Zoology, Mammals) presented his work on "Small mammals of the Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania." Four graduates of the Museum's Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Tropical Diversity (ATP) were also in attendance for the first time at this ITC: **Mahesh Gurung** (Nepal; now a grad student at UIC), **Daniel Rakotondravony** (Madagascar), **Romari Martinez** (Venezuela) and **Sergio Solari** (Peru). All four presented posters of their respective research programs.

1997

October

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 PKremer- Dino Fam 5:00pm-7:00pm *SF-Ride and Drive*	2 Rosh Hashanah Bon Appetit SFH Set-up 5:00pm-9:00am ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	3 6:00pm-10:00pm Bon Appetit; SFH 2000 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT *SF-College Football*	4 Unity/Cornerstone-JST-7:30-10:30pm 900 RCundiff, Sec.-Rice 5:30--10:30pm 100 Amoco-SFH 6:00-10:00pm 2000 ARCHAEOPTERYX EX Chi Pk Dist JST 8am-12:00
5 Wilson-McIlvaine Rice 10:00am-2:00pm 120 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT KWebber-JST 1:00pm-3:00pm 300 *SF-Bear's Game 7:00pm*	6 Direct Mkting – SFH & Grd.Flr. 7pm-2AM 3000 CKlyce –Rice 3:00pm-8:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	7 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	8 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	9 EZeiger-JST-12:00am-12:00am ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	10 Nature Network-Rice Pace Comm-SFH-7:00pm-12:00am 150 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	11 JBolt-SFH-6:00pm-12:00am Plaraba-JST-7:00am-6:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT
12 PLaraba; JST 9:00am-4:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT *SFBear's Game12:00* Overnight	13 SVandenbosch-Founders Room-5:30pm-7:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	14 Cbyrne-SFH/LOT-Dino Fam. 5:00pm-10:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	15 PStratton-SFH, Rice 5:00pm-8:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	16 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	17 Museum Trustee Assn-SFH-Rice 6:00pm-9:30pm 200 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT	18 Ayres Bar Mitzvah; Rice 7:00pm-10:00pm 140 Ross/Walter Wedding;SFH/balcony 5:30-11:00pm 250 ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT KWebber-JST-8:00am-5:00pm SF-College Football
19 Bonaventure House-JST 7:00pm-10:00pm ARCHAEOPTERYX EXHIBIT *Chicago Marathon*	20 Svandenbosch; Rice 6:00pm-9:00pm; 40	21	22 PStratton; SFH 5:30pm-7:30pm; 150	23 6:00pm-11:00pm Comark; SFH/balcony 300 CELEBRACION-JST	24 6:00pm-11:00pm Committee of 200; SFH/balcony 600 CELEBRACION-JST	25 7:00pm-12:00am Midwest Meat; SFH/balcony 700 CELEBRACION-JST Halloween Fest
26 UVEX; SFH/balcony 5:00pm-8:00pm; 400 CELEBRACION	27 River City Protect SFH 500 7:30pm-10:30pm CELEBRACION	28 2T-Carol CELEBRACION	29 SKaruschek-Rice 6:00pm-8:00pm	30	31 MR	

09/26/97

Dear Fielders:

The 1997 United Way Campaign has been a huge success thanks to all of you. Our goal this year was to raise awareness within our Museum, which we accomplished through both our Kick-Off Party and the great people whom comprised our 1997 United Way Team. Through their efforts they were able to reach out to all of you, inviting you to learn more about The United Way.

More than 125 Fielders turned in their pledge cards by Monday, September 15, 1997, this qualified them for the drawing of a free parking pass or the equivalent amount of money to be used towards a bus pass or bike maintenance. For the month of October you may want to car pool with Lisa Wodis from the Budget Department because she will not be paying for her parking pass. Congratulations Lisa, you won the drawing.

More than 50% of you responded before our official deadline for The 1997 United Way Campaign on this past Tuesday, September 23, 1997. I would like to thank all of you who have donated money or time to this year's crusade. For those of you who chose not to donate at this time, the information is available to you if you would like to in the future. It is not what we give that matters, it is that we give. Every dollar contributed to The United Way will help raise hopes and reach dreams of many people, while helping build ***our*** community.

The 1997 Campaign has been a very rewarding experience for me. My personal goal for the 1997 Campaign was to increase awareness both internally and externally. Through The Gift In Kind Program, we were able to invite many children in to explore our exhibits. Because The Field Museum is the only institution to do this, The United Way will be using us as an example in the hopes of getting more museums and cultural institutions involved.

I know that next year Marilyn Martinson will be looking for another "volunteer" to take on this wonderful responsibility. I will be there to assist in any way I can.

We are still accepting pledge cards, so if you have not returned yours yet, or if you have somehow been overlooked, please contact me or hand it in to The Visitors Center located on the second floor near Bushman.

I will be tallying the final results during October, at which time payroll deductions will begin. Thank you for caring, you are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Annie Crawley
United Way Chairperson

MILLIPEDES AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

For the next five years, millipedes will receive special attention in Zoology's Insect division. Adjunct Curator **Petra Sierwald** (Zoology, Insects) recently received official notification from the National Science Foundation that her PEET-proposal (with Co-PI Dr. W. Shear, Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia) was fully funded. Millipedes are of outstanding ecological importance and play a crucial role in nutrient cycling within the soil. With an estimated total of more than 80,000 living species, the ancient millipedes are the third most diverse class of terrestrial arthropods, following Insecta and Arachnida. Despite their number and importance, they have remained one of the poorest known animal groups on our planet. Presently, expertise for the group is at the brink of worldwide extinction because many of the few specialists world-wide are approaching retirement age. The goal of the project is to significantly advance the systematics of the group and to train students at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral levels. The research will concentrate on the North and Central American fauna, which through this project will become the best-known millipede fauna in the world. To make millipede taxa and associated data accessible to specialists and non-specialists a classification of millipedes, illustrated key to millipede families, and complete checklist of millipede species recorded from North and Central America and the West Indies will be published in electronic form and placed on The Field Museum Web Server. The research team will also develop the millipede pages on the 'Tree of Life' to introduce millipedes to a wide and general audience.

ATTENTION COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The Collections and Research Professional Staff will meet on Tuesday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Zoology Classroom. This (relatively)regularly meeting group is open to all non-curatorial staff members of Academic Affairs. It serves as a forum for discussion and voice for the professional staff in the Science Advisory Council and the Academic Affairs Management Group. I you have any questions or issues to be discussed, please contact **Cap Sease** (x369) or **Janice Klein** (x442).

RAPID REFERENCE COLLECTION IN BOTANY

The herbarium compactors for the Rapid Reference Collection in Botany have now been installed. The development of this collection, which is essentially an herbarium for ecologists and those doing conservation inventories, is the result of funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. **Robin Foster** (Ecologist, Environmental & Conservation Programs, & Adjunct Curator, Botany) persuaded three botanists from the Herbario, Museo de Historia Natural, Santa Cruz, Bolivia to extend their visit in the US and help move and reorganize his existing reference collections at F to form the basis of the rapid reference collection. Maday Menacho, Marisol Toledo, and Luzmila Arroyo, after getting to know Chicago have now returned to Bolivia and wish to thank all those they met in Botany who helped make it such a wonderful visit.

As part of the collaboration between the museum and Conservation International, two visitors from Lima, Peru, Hamilton Beltran and Monica Arakaki, and one from La Paz, Bolivia (Narel Paniagua) are working on the plant collections from the RAP program expeditions to the Pampas

del Heath, the Cordillera Vilcabamba, and the Madidi National Park respectively. They will be using and adding to the reference collection, and making preliminary field guides to the plants during their two+-month stays. These advanced students have all participated in the US AID-funded RAP training workshops, and each has also been an official counterpart in "real" RAP expeditions to some of the wildest areas remaining in the American tropics. Beltran will finally arrive next week, after being part of the latest AquaRAP expedition to the Rio Apa in northern Paraguay.

Other recent visitors making heavy use of the reference collections: Dra.Katya Romoleroux, U. Catolica, Quito, Ecuador -- flora of Yasuni Scientific Research Station, Napo, Ecuador; Glenn Shepard, U.C. Berkeley and Doug Yu, Harvard University -- an ethnoecology study of vegetation classification by the Machigenga native communities in Manu, Peru; Laura Marsh, Washington U., St. Louis -- a study of howler monkey impact on forest composition in Belize; Leila Porter and Scott Suarez, SUNY Stony Brook -- a study of food plants of Callimico goeldii in Pando, Bolivia; Dr. Robyn Burnham, University of Michigan, -- develop a rapid reference collection for neotropical lianas; and Alexander Krings, N.C.State U. -- guide to the lianas of montane Costa Rica.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday September 23, 1997 was delivered by **Alaka Wali,** Associate Curator Circum-Caribbean and Central American Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, and Director, Center for Cultural Understanding and Change, Field Museum. Alaka discussed the conceptual foundations presented in the forthcoming exhibit, Living Together. The exhibit is being assembled in Stanley Field Hall, and will open in early November. The primary theme of the exhibit "common concerns, different responses" implements a major conceptual change in the union of anthropological perspectives and exhibit format. Previously, cultural artifacts had been used to convey ideas such as cultural uniformity and stasis. The new exhibit will focus on change as a cultural process and how solutions to the challenge of survival have been achieved through innovation as well as continuity. The exhibit uses a comparative approach and is organized by common concerns. Specific topics include: community , home and self image. Alaka also presented three of the six short videos included in the exhibit to show how individual perceptions are expressed in the nature of their residential space.

NEW NEIGHBORS --
AND THEY ARE WELCOME!

Butch's Brew at 1259 South Wabash & *Cafe V* at 1801 South Indiana in the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, open 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Submitted by **Fay Hartog Levin**

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

Printed on recycled paper.

LEADERS TO RULERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 18, Academic Affairs and the Anthropology Department are hosting a conference entitled "Leaders to Rulers: The Development of Political Centralization." The conference concerns the evolution of political centralization of many cultures in diverse environments across the globe, and examines both the similarities and differences in these patterns. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and lasts until 5:00 p.m. in the Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall. A reception will follow. Conference presenters include: Brian Billman, **Winifred Creamer,** Carole Crumley, Timothy Earle, Gary Feinman, Antonio Gilman, Kristian Kristiansen, Patricia McAnany, Gil Stein, and Anne Underhill. Seating is limited and is by registration only (there is a $10 registration fee). To register, or for more information, call the Anthropology Department at ext. 444.

STANLEY RETURNS FROM TANZANIA

Collection Manager **Bill Stanley** (Zoology, Mammals) recently returned from Tanzania where he conducted field work in the Nguru Mountains in the central part of the country. The Ngurus are an ancient archipelago that is known for the high number of endemic species of plants and animals occurring in the montane forests of these isolated mountains. Stanley and biologists from the University of Dar es Salaam conducted two surveys: the first at 1000 meters where recent cultivation has encroached on the natural forest and the second at 1500 meters where the forest is relatively undisturbed. The second survey was extremely successful in that the team found a species of shrew that had not been recorded from these mountains but was hypothesized to occur, based on distributional data collected in other surveys.

The overall pattern emerging from small mammal surveys in the Eastern Arc by Stanley and his colleagues shows that montane rodents are distributed across the archipelago (the same species live on all the Eastern Arc mountains) whereas shrews are much more restricted in their distribution (certain species occur only on certain mountains) and are the only group of mammals found thus far that have species endemic to the Eastern Arc. This pattern has implications for the investigation of the biogeographic history of the montane areas of Tanzania.

Bill also conducted a workshop involving representatives of the Wildlife Conservation Society on biodiversity courses in National Parks of Tanzania. While in Dar es Salaam, Stanley met with faculty and graduate students in the Department of Zoology and discussed both research projects on small mammals and curatorial techniques in the Museum of Zoology.

CARTER ATTENDS CONFERENCE AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Project Administrator **Jaci Carter** (Center for Cultural Understanding and Change) presented a session on "Museums and Cultural Centers as Resources for Diversity Programs" at a conference held at Penn State University on September 18-20. The conference -- entitled "Best Practices in Diversity: Exploring Practical Applications for the 21st Century" -- was organized by Penn State's Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity and brought together academic institutions and Fortune 500 companies. Jaci talked about the **Living Together** exhibit as a unique venue for

diversity training. The three days of programs focused on practical approaches to harnessing workplace diversity.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GRANTS FUNDED

Curator **Lance Grande** (Geology) and Research Associate **Willy Bemis** (Geology) were recently awarded $190,007 from the National Science Foundation for "Systematics, Ontogeny, Osteology and Historical Biogeography of Fossil and Living Gars." This grant will fund the first phase of a comprehensive phylogenetic study of fossil and living gars and a number of other closely related fish groups. This project will connect Grande and Bemis' past projects on primitive ray-finned fishes (i.e., sturgeons, paddlefishes and amiiforms) and set the stage for addressing basal teleosts for the next project. In the end, their goal is a better understanding of the evolution of actinopterygian fishes (a group containing about half of all vertebrate animals) and of the philosophy and methods of natural historical studies. They anticipate the project on gars will take five years, including one or two more phases.

Associate Curator **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology, Invertebrates) was awarded a $240,360 National Science Foundation (NSF) collection support grant, "Support for Computerization of the Field Museum Malacology Collection: Pulmonate Land Snails." The Museum's collection of pulmonate gastropods (land snails) contains about 3.5 million specimens in about 208,000 dry-shell and alcoholic lots and is one of the most comprehensive in the world. An earlier NSF award allowed for curatorial update (archival storage in new cabinets and computerization) of a part of the North American land snail collection ("Hubricht" Collection). The new award will complete the project, by providing funding for data entry staff and for new cabinetry to rehouse the remaining land snail collection (some 162,000 lots).

Biochemistry Lab Manager **Lee Weigt** and Nancy Knowlton (STRI/Panama) received a $65,826 grant from the National Science Foundation's Biological Oceanography Program for "Tropical Marine Endimism and Extinction: Biogeographic relationships between the snapping shrimp faunas of the eastern Atlantic and the Isthmus of Panama." This proposal supports the collection of shrimp from the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa to add an eastern Atlantic population to the existing DNA sequence data from fifteen transisthmian geminate pairs from the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific. Weigt and Knowlton hope to answer several questions, including: I) is there evidence of recent gene flow across the Atlantic; ii) when did the eastern and western Atlantic faunas separate, if at all; iii) do the eastern Atlantic taxa reveal evidence of extinction events associated with the rise of the Isthmus of Panama? Field work will begin in the spring of 1998 and laboratory work should be completed in early 1999.